

Docket No.: SVL920040505US2 (22233.05481)
Appl. No.: 09/714,683
Amdt. dated September 26, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of both the amendments presented above and the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 USC § 102 (b) or obvious under the provisions of 35 USC § 103 (a). Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues in any of the claims now pending in the application, the Examiner should telephone Ms. Janet M. Skafar, Esq. at message telephone number (408) 463-5670 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-20 and 25-33 are pending in this application. Claims 21-24 are withdrawn. Claims 28-33 are new.

Response to Application History

On page 3 of the July 26, 2006 Office Action, in paragraph 9, the Examiner refers to claims 1-44, a reference called Rivette et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,806,079) and a previous office action dated 2/10/2004. Applicants respectfully point out that the patent application has claims 1-27, Rivette et al was never mentioned in the previous office action which was dated 2/09/2005, and Applicants have not received any office action dated 2/10/2004 for this patent application.

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Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed 3/11/2005

The Office Action indicated that the references submitted on the supplemental information disclosure statement were not considered because the citation is missing page numbers on the PTO-1449 form. In response, Applicants have attached a corrected PTO-1449 form with the number of pages. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider this art.

The Rejection of Claims 12 and 14-20 Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 12 and 14-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

In response, claims 12, 14 and 15 have been amended to remove the language "on a server system". Therefore Applicants request that the rejection of claims 12 and 14-20 be withdrawn.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 5 and 10-20 and 25-27 Under 35 USC § 102 (b)

Claims 1, 5, 10-20 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by the Chester publication (Mastering Excel 97, published in 1997 by SYBEX Inc.).

The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection.

In response to the rejection, the Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of "displaying the requested calculator web page in a web browser

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in a calculator mode”, “allowing the user to change contents in the editable cells but not allowing the user to change contents in the non-editable cells in the displayed calculator web page” and “allowing the user to change at least one of the editable cells to non-editable, and to change at least one of the non-editable cells to editable in the web browser.”

The claimed invention is directed to a web based calculator and spreadsheet. Claim 1 is directed to a calculator web page which is displayed in a web browser, and the user can change the editability of the cells in the web browser.

The Chester publication is directed to a spreadsheet which is created using Excel 97. After creating a spreadsheet in Excel 97, Excel 97 allows that spreadsheet to be posted to the Web. Page 961 of the Chester publication states that “you can create an HTML Web page from the data and objects on a worksheet, and ultimately publish the page at a Web site.” Therefore the Chester publication teaches creating a spreadsheet using Excel 97 and publishing that page to a Web site.

The claimed invention recites: “allowing the user to change at least one of the editable cells to non-editable, and to change at least one of the non-editable cells to editable in the web browser”. The Applicants maintain that the Chester publication has no such teaching.

Claim 1 has a limitation similar to claim 12; therefore the rejection of claim 12 will be discussed. The rejection asserts, with respect to claim 12, that the Chester publication recites: “The worksheet is intended to be used by many non-technical users, and needs to be reasonably bulletproof. When you are done, you protect the worksheet so that users will not be able to delete objects or edit certain locked cells.” (The Chester publication, page 600, first paragraph). On page 294, the Chester publication teaches that using Excel 97, the editability of the cells of the spreadsheet can

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be changed within Excel 97. However, the Chester publication does not teach the ability to change the editability of the cells after publishing the spreadsheet, or calculator web page as a spreadsheet, while being displayed in a web browser.

Moreover, "Excel 2000 for Windows for Dummies" by Harvey, previously cited by Applicants, referred to as the Harvey publication, teaches setting the editability of the cells of a spreadsheet prior to publishing the spreadsheet as a Web page. The Harvey publication, on page 319 states: "If you want to prevent your users from being able to change particular cells to the worksheet data, you need to protect the table or sheet prior to saving its data as a Web page."

Furthermore, as disclosed in the Harvey publication, in Excel 2000 the only way to edit an HTML spreadsheet after publishing is to use a Web page editing tool outside the Web browser. The Harvey publication teaches that after creating an HTML, that is, a web-based spreadsheet, that spreadsheet can be edited as follows: "You can edit the new Web pages that you create in Excel or the existing pages to which you've appended worksheet data with any Windows-based Web page editing tool. If you don't have a favorite Web page editing program go ahead and use Word 2000 that comes as part of the Office 2000 suite of applications as your Web page (it is actually quite adequate and really good about shielding you from the behind-the-scenes HTML tags and weird XML scripts). Keep in mind that double-clicking a Web page file icon in the Windows Explorer or My Computer will only result in opening the Web page in your favorite Web browser (where you can look but you can't touch). To open a Web page for editing, you must remember to launch a Web editor (like Word 2000 or, in some cases, Excel 2000) first and then use the editing program's File⇨Open command to open the Web page that needs changing." (The Harvey publication, p. 329).

Therefore, the editability of the cells of an HTML spreadsheet that was created using Excel can be changed, using either Excel, Word 2000, or another Web page

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editing tool and then saving the changed spreadsheet as an HTML spreadsheet. The Chester and Harvey publications do not teach changing the editability of the cells in the HTML web page as the HTML web page is displayed in the web browser. In contrast, the claimed invention allows –“ the user to change at least one of the editable cells to non-editable, and to change at least one of the non-editable cells to editable in the web browser.”

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants submit that the Chester publication does not teach or suggest, explicitly or implicitly, all the limitations of Claim 1. Therefore the present invention is not shown, disclosed or suggested, explicitly or even implicitly, by the Chester publication.

As such, the Applicants submit that independent Claim 1 is not anticipated by the teachings in the Chester publication. Hence independent Claim 1 is patentable. Claim 5 depends from Claim 1 and is patentable for the same reasons as Claim 1.

Independent Claims 10, 12 and 25 have similar distinguishing limitations as Claim 1 and are therefore patentable for the same reasons as Claim 1. Claims 11 and 13 depend from Claim 10 and are patentable for the same reasons as Claim 10. Claims 14-20 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 12 and are patentable for the same reasons as Claim 12. Claims 26 and 27 depend from Claim 25 and are patentable for the same reasons as Claim 25.

Claim 16 contains additional distinguishing limitations as follows: “wherein adjusting editability includes allowing the designer/creator to change the editability of a cell in response to the designer/creator clicking on that cell.” The rejection asserts that the Chester publication discloses the ability to toggle the editability of a cell on and off as described above, in reference to claim 1. The rejection further asserts that the Chester publication discloses accessing the formatting controls by clicking on the cell.

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The Chester publication recites: "A shortcut menu is a menu that you display by pointing at a certain object, then clicking on the right mouse button" (page 15, first paragraph in the shaded box) and "Perhaps the most useful shortcut menu is the one displayed when you right-click on a cell. Commands like Cut, Copy, Paste and Format are available." (page 15, second paragraph of the shaded box).

The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection.

The shortcut menu of the Chester publication is displayed using the Excel spreadsheet in Excel, and not in an HTML web page which is displayed in a web browser. In addition, the shortcut menu of the Chester publication discloses a menu with menu items to cut, copy, paste and format, but not a menu item to change the editability of a cell. In the claimed invention, in response to clicking on a cell in the calculator preview mode, the editability of that cell is changed. Therefore, for the foregoing additional reasons, the Applicants submit that Claim 16 is patentable.

Claim 5 contains the following additional distinguishing limitation: "wherein said at least one of the non-editable cells is changed to editable in response to clicking on said at least one of the editable cells, and wherein said at least one of the editable cells is changed to non-editable in response to clicking on said at least one of the non-editable cells." Applicants submit that Claim 5 is patentable for the same additional reasons as Claim 16 and Claim 1.

Claims 13, 14 and 15

Claim 13 recites the following limitation: "wherein at least one of the cells of the spreadsheet in the calculator preview mode depends on a value in one or more other cells of the spreadsheet, and any cells depending on the value in other cells default to being non-editable cells, and any cell that another cell depends on defaults to being an

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editable cell.” The rejection asserts that the Chester publication discloses cells that are non-editable, and editable and cells that depend on other values as described above. The rejection asserts that the Chester publication further discloses that cells may contain text. However, unlike the claimed invention, the Chester publication does not teach “wherein at least one of the cells of the spreadsheet in the calculator preview mode depends on a value in one or more other cells of the spreadsheet, and any cells depending on the value in other cells default to being non-editable cells, and any cell that another cell depends on defaults to being an editable cell.” Therefore, for the foregoing additional reason, the Applicants submit that Claim 13 is patentable.

Claim 14 recites “wherein any cell that another cell depends on defaults to being an editable cell in the calculator preview mode.” The Applicants submit that Claim 14 is patentable for the same additional reasons as Claim 13.

Claim 15 recites “wherein the cells containing text only default to being non-editable.” Although the Chester publication discloses that cells may contain text, the Chester publication does not disclose a web-based spreadsheet “wherein the cells containing text only default to being non-editable in the calculator preview mode.” Therefore, the Applicants submit that Claim 15 is patentable for the foregoing additional reasons.

The Rejection of Claim 2 Under 35 USC § 103 (a)

Claim 2 depends from Claim 1 and has additional distinguishing limitations. Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Chester publication in view of the Courter publication (Mastering Microsoft Office 2000 Profession Edition, published in 1999 by SYBEX Inc.).

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The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection. Neither the Chester publication, nor the Courter publication, alone or in combination, explicitly or implicitly, teach or suggest the limitations of Claims 1 and 2.

As discussed above with respect to Claim 1, the Chester publication does not teach "allowing the user to change at least one of the editable cells to non-editable, and to change at least one of the non-editable cells to editable in the web browser." Similarly, the Courter publication also does not teach "allowing the user to change at least one of the editable cells to non-editable, and to change at least one of the non-editable cells to editable in the web browser." Therefore, combining the teachings of the Chester and Courter publications would not result in the claimed invention. Therefore, Claim 1 and Claim 2 are non-obvious and patentable.

The Rejection of Claims 3 and 4 Under 35 USC § 103 (a)

Claims 3 and 4 depend from Claim 1 and have additional distinguishing limitations. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Chester publication in view of the Pollack et al patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,733, filed June 6, 2000, granted Dec. 10, 2002).

The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection. Neither the Chester publication, nor the Pollack et al patent, alone or in combination, explicitly or implicitly, teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 1 and Claim 3.

As discussed above with respect to Claim 1, the Chester publication does not teach "allowing the user to change at least one of the editable cells to non-editable, and to change at least one of the non-editable cells to editable in the web browser." Similarly, the Pollack et al patent also does not teach "allowing the user to change at least

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one of the editable cells to non-editable, and to change at least one of the non-editable cells to editable in the web browser." Therefore, combining the teachings of the Chester publication and Pollack et al patent would not result in the claimed invention. Therefore, Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 are non-obvious and patentable.

Claim 7 contains similar distinguishing limitations as Claims 1 and 3 combined; therefore Claim 7 is patentable for the same reasons as Claim 3. Claims 8 and 9 depend from Claim 7 and are patentable for the same reasons as Claim 7. Furthermore, Claims 8 and 9 contain similar distinguishing limitations as Claims 4 and 3, and are patentable for the same reasons as Claims 4 and 3, respectively.

New Claims 28-33

New independent claims 28 and 31 are article of manufacture claims comprising a computer readable medium embodying one or more instructions executable by a computer embodying a method which contains the distinguishing limitation of "allowing at least one of the editable cells to be changed to non-editable, and at least one of the non-editable cells to be changed to editable in the web browser," and are believed to be patentable. Claims 29-30 and 32-33 depend from claims 28 and 31, respectively, and are also believed to be patentable. Claims 30 and 33 depend from claims 28 and 31, respectively, and contain additional limitations similar to claim 5.

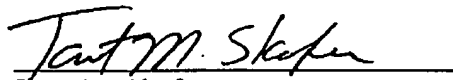
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Conclusion

Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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